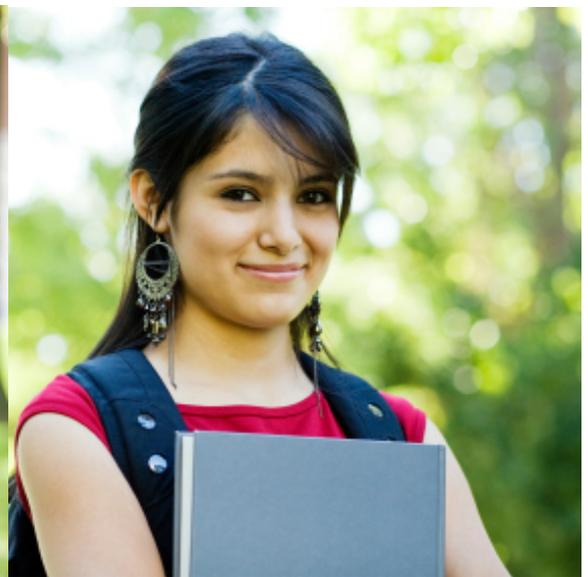
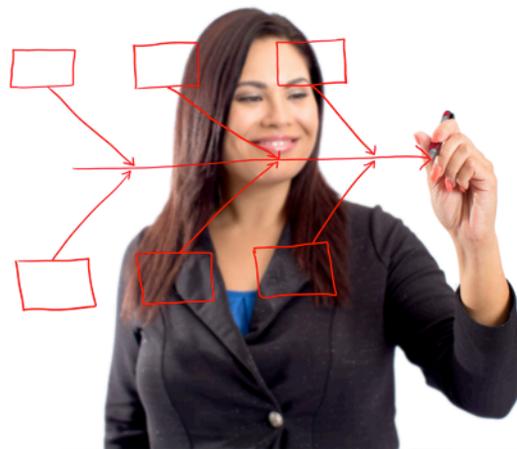


Helping Your Teen Discover the Importance of Math





Mathematics Matters!!!

Dear Parents,

We are sharing this brochure with your family. We hope your adolescent will learn about the importance of mathematics.

You are your child's first and most important teacher. You teach your children about what is important in life. You help your child make choices. You guide your child in how to behave. Please work with us. We ask you to talk with your child about the importance of math for his or her future. Math is useful for jobs and in everyday life. Math will help your child succeed in life.

Please use this brochure to learn about the importance of mathematics. The brochure has ideas about how to inspire your young teen.

We also invite you to visit our **Math Matters website** (www.niu.edu/mathmatters). This website is for parents of middle school math students. Please search the site to learn why

mathematics is important for your teen. You will find examples that show the importance of math. You will also find brief videos about the value of math. Understanding that math is useful, interesting, and worth learning will help your child succeed in life.

In addition, we created a **Math Matters Facebook group for parents**. Every two weeks, we will post important information. This information will help you talk to your teen about the importance of math. Please join the Facebook group by visiting: <https://www.facebook.com/group/MathMatters/>

We are excited and honored to partner with you. It is our pleasure to work with you in your efforts to make mathematics important in your child's life.

Best regards,

Margaret Molenda-Lesniak, Jose Moya & Professor Lee Shumow

Math Matters for Jobs and Careers

Today there is a high demand for new workers in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This job demand is increasing every day. Mathematical knowledge is very important in STEM jobs and thousands of other jobs. For example, people who deal with money, including people who work in banks, stores, and businesses, need math skills. Workers who build things use math in their jobs to make their products work well. Car mechanics that do wheel alignments need math to do their job well. In fact, math is a basic skill in most occupations. Math is very important to your teen's future and job success.



Math Matters for Jobs

All science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs require your child to know mathematics. In thousands of jobs not related to STEM, your child will also use math. One great benefit of learning math is that when your teens graduate from high school, technical school or college, they will have more jobs to choose from if they demonstrate that they know math. Therefore, mathematical knowledge is very important to your child's future and job success.



Math Matters for Careers

Your teens will make more money if they choose a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields whether or not they have a college degree. STEM workers earn higher wages by 26%. Also, STEM major graduates receive higher earnings than graduates in non-STEM majors. In fact, if your child works in any of the STEM fields, he or she will be less likely to become unemployed. Mathematics prepares your teen for their future jobs, careers and financial success.



Math Matters for Problem Solving

Learning mathematics will help your teen develop thinking skills. Analytical thinking is very important for your child's future. It is important because it helps your teen solve problems quickly and effectively. Most jobs require people to solve different problems. Your teen will have a better chance finding a job if they develop thinking skills in school. Your teen will also be more successful in his or her job. Additionally, problem-solving skills will help your teen do better on tests and exams.



Math Matters for Education

Taking many math courses during high school and doing well in math helps teens when they go to college, technical schools and job-related training. When your teens study hard in math, they will feel more ready to take higher-level math classes. Actually, their mathematical knowledge will help them in all STEM-related courses and many non-related classes. Your teens will be prepared to face new challenges. They will be more likely to succeed in those courses and complete their studies.



Math Matters in Daily Life



Math is very useful in everyday life. Math can help us do many things that are important in our everyday lives. Here are some daily tasks for which math is important:

- Managing money \$\$\$
- Shopping for the best price
- Balancing the checkbook
- Preparing food
- Figuring out distance, time and cost for travel
- Understanding loans for cars, trucks, homes, schooling or other purposes
- Understanding sports (being a player and team statistics)
- Playing music
- Sewing
- Home decorating
- Gardening and landscaping

Parents can help teens connect math they learn in school and in their everyday lives. As a parent, you could talk to your teen about how you use math in your daily life. You could also ask family members and friends how they use math in their daily lives. Please talk to your teen about these math connections to the real world. Share with your child the examples of everyday math applications, which are listed above. When your teens hear how math can be used every day, they will be more likely to view math as important and valuable. They may also become more interested in mathematics. Remember that as a parent, you can greatly influence how your child thinks about mathematics. Please visit our website (www.niu.edu/mathmatters) to view examples and brief videos about the importance of mathematics.

Note. Partial content of this web page is adapted from Making Connections: Helping Your Teen With the Choices Ahead brochure (Harackiewicz, Hyde & Hulleman, n.d.) and Making Connections: Helping Your Teen Find Value in School brochure (Hulleman, Harackiewicz & Hyde, 2007). Please use to the links provided below to access to the full brochures:

<http://choicesahead.wceruw.org/MakingConnections.pdf>

<http://glial.psych.wisc.edu/images/FacultyPapers/helpingyourteenfindvalue.pdf>